



File Code: 1900

Date: June 13, 2013

Greetings!

The Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA), in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District's Las Vegas Field Office, Pahrump Field Office, and Red Rock/Sloan Field Office, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Spring Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Complex Herd Management Area Plan Project (SM Complex Project). The project is located on the Spring Mountains Range, within Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada. The Spring Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Complex Herd Management Area Plan Project is being planned under authorization of Pre-decisional Administrative Review Processes 36 CFR 218 and 36 CFR 219. Enclosed is a copy of our Scoping Report for your convenience.

The Forest Service and the BLM are soliciting public comment on the Scoping Report for the SM Complex Project. The BLM will follow the Forest Service process as noted below; therefore, all scoping comments must be sent to the Forest Service as indicated below under "How to Comment and Timeline."

The SM Complex Project Proposed Action description and other information are also available for review at the following link:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=40960> (click on Spring Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Complex Project); and at the SMNRA office at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301.

The EA is being prepared to address the environmental consequences of a proposed agency action to implement a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for the next 10-plus years. This action includes clarification and validation of existing Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) for the Spring Mountains Wild Horse & Burro Complex (hereafter referred to as SM Complex). Also included in the Proposed Action are several proposed non-significant amendments to the Toiyabe National Forest Plan, as amended by the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan (SMNRA GMP). The Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP), including the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices, is currently in the revision process. If any changes to that plan need to be made, they would be incorporated into the revision process.

The Forest Service and BLM are encouraging the use of a new electronic Comment Analysis and Response Application. To assist the Forest Service and BLM in meeting their goals of reducing our carbon footprints and to achieve a sustainable operation, we are transitioning to a web based electronic mailing and comment system that allows all interested parties to receive project material (scoping documents, updates, draft and final NEPA documents, and decisions) by email. This new system gives you direct control over which mailing lists you are subscribed to and immediate electronic access to project documents as they are posted online. It's easy, it's good



for the environment, and it gives “on-demand” access to projects. We encourage the use of this new web system.

To subscribe to this new system you may go online now to migrate to electronic notifications, by following this link <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=40960>. Once at the project site, you will see a box titled “Get Connected” on the right hand side of the page. In the box is a “Subscribe to Email Updates” menu item. When you click on that item you will be prompted to provide your email address and select a password. When you have logged in, you will be able to manage your account by subscribing to projects by Forest, District, project type, or project purpose. You will also be able to change your email address and password or delete subscriptions for projects you no longer wish to follow or which have been completed. Once you are subscribed, your name will be removed from the existing postal mailing lists; you will thereafter receive all project information via email.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Electronic comments (preferred) must be submitted in a format such as, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) inserted into the following database:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=40960>

Once at the project site, you will see a box titled “Get Connected” on the right hand side of the page. In the box is a “Comment on Project” menu item. When you click on that item you will be prompted to provide your comment. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity would be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Written comments must be submitted to: Randy Swick, Area Manager, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301, fax (702) 515-5447. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

All comments must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, emailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted (for example by express delivery service) by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on the 30th calendar day following publication of the Opportunity to Comment legal notice in the Reno Gazette-Journal. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. The RGJ is the newspaper of record, since the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor is the Deciding Official on this Decision. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period at the appropriate address as noted above. Please Note: Only one set of comments needs to be submitted in the database for this joint effort between the BLM and Forest Service.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under 36 CFR 218 and 36 CFR 219. Comments in regard to the appropriate

management level of horses and burros, the gather and removal of excess animals, sex ratio adjustments, and fertility control will be considered under the §218 regulations. Those comments which refer to amending the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan will be considered under the §219 regulations. The time periods and process for commenting under either set of regulations are identical.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B or 36 CFR 219 Subparts A and B. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Public Meetings

Public meetings on this project are planned for the following dates from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.:

- June 25 - Pahrump (Bob Rudd Center)
- June 26 - Good Springs (Good Springs Community Center)
- June 27 - Cold Creek (Volunteer Fire Station)

For further information on the project, the public meetings, or for information on release of a document for comment, contact Project Leader, Terri Frolli, at (775) 355-5335; Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Manager, Randy Swick, at (702) 515-5448; Pahrump Field Office Manager, Deb MacNeill, at (702) 515-5042; or email us at smwhbcomplex@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



RANDALL G. SWICK
Spring Mountains NRA Area Manager